

Greeks, Lombards, and Saracens are found in this class of peasant-proprietors, and many Norman men-at-arms were added to them, but the free lands steadily tended to disappear. The holders "with service" show a similar character and are liable to the same burdens in Italy and in Sicily. They gave personal service, they paid contributions or aids in money or kind (*redditus et salutes*), and were subject to the corve'e or compulsory labour on the lord's estate. The dues in kind are very much like those paid in other lands, that is a certain proportion of the produce of their corn and wine, grazing dues, a payment on every head of cattle, and so on. These are the *homines* of charters and assises.

In Sicily the first Count with his bishops and vassals had encouraged the founding of these agricultural communes, in order that the Greek and Moslem cultivators should find a counterpoise in a Lombard-Italian population, and the island be brought into fuller cultivation. Favourable terms were granted to such colonists, and henceforward the so-called "Lombard" communes of Butera, Randazzo, and other places become of decisive importance in Sicily.

The Sicilian communes had imposed upon them

the duty of maintaining and manning the royal navy to a far greater extent than those of Italy where exemptions were so numerous; for instance Caltagirone had to provide 250 galleys yearly to the service of the Count.